

# The Customs Journal

No. 678

October 18th, 1930

Fortnightly

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*Letters to the Editor, and articles and correspondence intended for publication, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Customs Journal," 91 Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4.*

*All matter for insertion in the forthcoming issue should reach the Editor on or before the Monday preceding the day of publication*

## Needs and Nonsense.

HERE are occasions when we are tempted to urge that a well-developed sense of humour should be an essential qualification for entrance to the Civil Service. There are many things we meet in the Service that force us to appreciate how useful is a capacity for seeing the funny side, but it is when we are asking to be reimbursed for expenses incurred on official business that a sense of humour is invaluable.

Take for instance that common mistake we all make regarding railway porters. Most of us have never realised that outside porters belong to the great unpaid, and that one may reward such—within reason, of course—without question. The railway companies, however, employ porters to carry our baggage to and fro, and if we reward them, well, that is our liability, and any claim in respect thereof is ruthlessly deleted. It is true that on the surface there does not appear to be much humour in that little matter, but imagine telling a railway porter that the company pay him, and the funny side is obvious.

Then there is the matter of domestic saving. It is wonderful what can be built upon two words like that. One goes away for a period, and the guardians of the public purse at once assume that

one's wife has been able to effect a remarkable saving in the family budget. It is useless to argue that a good housewife can feed six at the same cost as five. Such theories are absurd. But tell your wife that she is 12/6 to the good because you were away from home on special duty during the previous week, and you will certainly require a sense of humour.

This reminds us of another little joke that is being played upon many of those terrible departmental classes, in which category we have the misfortune to be enumerated. This joke—it can be called practical, but we have heard it called much worse—deals with subsistence allowances. The intention is to force many of us to plead for charity from hotel managers and landladies. We are to be required to remind them that we are not of such high social standing as the class that the comic turn on the music hall used to refer to as "pen-pushers," and that we are several degrees beneath those high and mighty rulers of England, the Executive class. It is certain that we will be told that we eat as much (and possibly much more than) they do, and that we cause just as much trouble in the hotel or the "digs." But that is the joke and you surely require a seasoned sense of humour to appreciate it.

## CURRENT COMMENTS.

THAT the recent examination for Chief Preventive Officer is one of the most important events in Preventive Staff history is a truth which will eventually be fully appreciated by everyone in the department. Many are already convinced, and it is certain that the fruits forthcoming from the new scheme of things will convince those who at present reserve their opinions.

Anyone reading the papers set at this examination could not but be impressed by the obvious fact that at last the work of the Preventive Staff was beginning to be taken seriously. Practically all the candidates agreed that the questions were excellent and that they had a direct bearing on what a Chief Preventive Officer ought to know in the ordinary course of his duties. In no case was it suggested that the aim was too high. This is a remarkable tribute from men who by reason of the ordeal through which they had to pass might be expected to criticise strongly any unnecessary addition to their trials.

By comparison with the new examination the old one becomes more absurd than ever. One wonders, when considering the qualities now sought for in aspirants for Chief Preventive Officer, how it has been possible in the past to select suitable promotees so successfully.

\* \* \* \*

Although the questions were sound and to the point, there was some complaint against the method of sub-dividing them. Opinions were expressed that this was undesirable, and that it would be better to have a larger number, each carrying its own number of marks, rather than split the questions into two parts. In some instances, candidates found that a sub-question on which they were particularly strong was coupled with one regarding which they were not so confident.

The pros and cons of this complaint will be discussed by the Executive and if it should be decided that there is substance in it the Association will endeavour to put the matter right.

\* \* \* \*

Regarding the arrangements for the examination, and the treatment of the candidates, there was nothing more to be desired. Appreciation was expressed by everyone. The Inspector-General's

address to the candidates before the written test succeeded in dispelling that tense atmosphere usually associated with examination rooms.

Many of the candidates took the opportunity to visit Association Headquarters, and displayed great interest in the latest information in connection with salary claim operations. There was a general desire to know if there was any possibility of an increase of pay for the C.P.O. Grade. There are very few cases where a promotee has any financial gain on becoming a C.P.O. In some cases there is an actual loss, and this does not present a happy prospect when it is coupled with the necessity to leave home and travel about the country for a considerable period. Unfortunately, there is scant consideration given to the domestic disturbance suffered by the unattached C.P.O. There is a tendency to regard it unsympathetically as something he must accept as the ordinary conditions of the work. It is, however, only reasonable to expect that since he has had to prove his worth at two different departmental examinations, including a test in administrative ability, he should enjoy a salary that could readily be called an increase. If this could be so, the burden of unattachment would be lightened. As things are, there is scarcely a man who would accept the post of Chief Preventive Officer but for the hope of getting at least to Upper Section. This is not to be wondered at, especially when it is considered that many of those now passing into the C.P.O. Grade have been colleagues with officers who have transferred to the Immigration Service after having failed at the Preventive Officer examination, and who now enjoy a salary substantially greater than a Lower Section Chief Preventive Officer.

\* \* \* \*

The Royal Commission on the Civil Service started hearing evidence again on Monday, 13th October. Four organisations representing women will be giving evidence on the employment of women in the Civil Service. The National Staff Side will also deal with this subject. Apparently there is sufficient material to keep the Commission sitting for a few months to come.

The evidence given on the 13th inst. by the Federation of Women Civil Servants was rather interesting. Miss Appleby, the representative,

told the Commission that women were quite prepared to do night work, and were capable of performing Customs duties on board ships. She stated that even rummage work could be undertaken, and asserted that women were doing this work in some countries to-day.

One newspaper, in reporting this evidence, explained that "rummaging" meant the "arranging and re-arranging of cargo." This is another indication of how helpful the Press is in educating the public.

\* \* \* \*

The season for dinners, dances, and other social events is now upon us. Meetings of all kinds of social committees are taking place to consider those trying problems of how to please the various tastes of those for whom they cater. The people who work on these committees render service which is rarely valued as it ought to be. It does not seem to be necessary work, but we would find out that it is far from being unnecessary if these voluntary workers ceased their labours.

The Preventive Service Sports Club will be holding its first Dinner and Dance on the 29th October, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London. This is not the first function of its kind to be organised, by the London Staff. It is really the fourth event, but on this occasion it is held under the auspices of the new Club.

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## Preventive Staff Association

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13 Beer Lane,  
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*Telephone : ROYAL 4279*

*President : W. G. Thomson*

*General Secretary : J. Merron*

*Organising Secretary : J. T. Sutton*

*Assistant Secretary : W. H. Powell*

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## Changes in the Staff

TO OCTOBER 13th, 1930.

### APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Kerr, W. A. T.

### TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS, LOWER SECTION :—

Thomson, A., Falmouth, Plymouth, to  
Grangemouth, Edinburgh.

White, E. H., Unattached, Office of I.G.W.,  
to Falmouth, Plymouth.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Potter, A. P., Manchester to Liverpool.  
Varney, G., Liverpool to Methil, Dundee.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Coates, A., West Hartlepool, Sunderland, to  
Hull.

Harris, S. T., Liverpool to Faversham,  
Dover.

O'Shea, J. C., Point of Air, Chester, to  
Liverpool.

Saxton, C. S., Milford Haven, Swansea, to  
Southampton.

Stones, G. K., Southampton to Dover.

Urwin, J., Leith to West Hartlepool,  
Sunderland.

### PROMOTION.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO PREVENTIVE  
OFFICER :—

Harris, T. V., Bristol to Manchester.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS :—

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Adams, W. C., Teignmouth, Plymouth.  
Brown, C., Methil, Dundee.

RESIGNATION :—

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Hawkins, R. W., Barry Dock, Cardiff.

### VACANCIES.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

London, 1.12.1930.  
Heysham, Preston.

### OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Hodder, W., Assistant Preventive Officer.

## The New Examination.

The examination of a number of Preventive Officers for promotion to the rank of Chief Preventive Officer was held in London on Tuesday, October 7th, and the three following days. The written part of the examination, on the first day, consisted of two papers containing five questions each, and the candidates were required to answer three of each five at his own discretion. The time allotted for each paper was two and a half hours. The three other days were devoted to the interviewing of each candidate by the Promotion Board.

The following is a reprint of the papers:—

7th October, 1930.

### FIRST PAPER—REGULATIONS & PRACTICE.

Time allowed—2½ hours. 10 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

Not more than THREE questions are to be answered.

Each question carries an equal number of marks. In order to qualify not less than 66 per cent. of the maximum total number of marks must be obtained.

N.B.—Write your NUMBER ONLY on the books provided for the answers to the questions. If your name appears anywhere in these books you are liable to be disqualified.

1. Write a report to your Superintendent detailing the supervisory duties performed as Chief Preventive Officer during a visit to a sub-port staffed by one Preventive Officer on a normal seven-hour attendance and two Assistant Preventive Officers on tidal attendance. The Preventive Officer is responsible for the Long Room work, which includes Registry of Shipping, Light Dues, Mercantile Marine, Wreck, and Royal Naval Reserve work. He has a banking account and a stock of Customs Sale forms.

It is high water at the time of your arrival, and there are in the harbour a Swedish vessel from the Baltic discharging timber, a British vessel from the Irish Free State, four coasters, and a private 7-ton cruising yacht.

2. State the procedure to be followed when taking Court proceedings in cases of smuggling

uncustomed goods, or prohibited goods other than Dangerous Drugs, indicating:—

(i) The steps to be taken to secure the trial of the offender; and

(ii) The conduct of the case before the Court.

How does the practice differ in these cases from those in which Dangerous Drugs are concerned?

3. (a) Summarise the regulations as affecting the Waterguard governing the shipment of bonded and drawback goods as stores on foreign-going ships, and state what supervisory steps should be taken by Chief Preventive Officers to ensure that the duties and regulations are properly carried out.

(b) The Collector has referred to you as Chief Preventive Officer an application from a local ships' store dealer for the remission of the duty on two cases of whisky, which are alleged to have fallen into the dock a fortnight previously during the shipment of a consignment of stores, and have not been recovered. Write a report giving all the relevant facts, so far as you know and can ascertain them.

4. State the conditions under which free goods in bulk from foreign may be discharged at approved places:—

- (a) Outside legal hours on weekdays;
- (b) On Sundays; and
- (c) On Public Holidays.

What supervision should be given to vessels so discharging, and what charges should be raised against the merchant for visits made under (a), (b), and (c) above for:—

- (1) Examination of cargo only; and
- (2) Examination of cargo and clearance inward combined, at ports where the Waterguard attendance is not continuous?

5. (a) Specify the documents which have to be used by Preventive Officers for paying in moneys received:—

- (i) As duties and fines from passengers in respect of goods in baggage and from crews in respect of goods declared on List 142;

- (ii) As deposits of duties and fines in respect of goods in baggage in transit; and
- (iii) As fines in respect of merchandise (free goods) in baggage.

In what other documents and books are records to be made of such moneys?

(b) What periodical check would you make as Chief Preventive Officer to satisfy yourself that the goods referred to above are correctly described and to ensure that all money received is properly accounted for and promptly paid in?

(c) State the regulations governing the custody, issue, inspection, and disposal of Duty Slip Books, and Request and Receipt Books.

**SECOND PAPER—ADMINISTRATION.**

Time allowed—2½ hours. 2 p.m.-4.30 p.m.

Not more than THREE questions are to be answered.

Each question carries an equal number of marks. In order to qualify not less than 66 per cent. of the maximum total number of marks must be obtained.

N.B.—Write your NUMBER ONLY on the books provided for the answers to the questions. If your name appears anywhere in these books you are liable to be disqualified.

1. (a) State whether the present system of Boarding, Rummaging, Patrolling, and Guarding vessels for the prevention of smuggling could, in your opinion, be improved upon, bearing in mind the changes in shipping during your period of service in the Customs.

(b) Assume that you are appointed Chief Preventive Officer at a port having a considerable line of unenclosed docks, and you find that the seizures have fallen off during the previous three or four years. Write a report to your Superintendent giving your reasons for considering that smuggling is, or is not, taking place, and (if the former) submitting proposals for the best and most effective method, in your opinion, of effectively utilising the rummaging force of two crews, each consisting of a Preventive Officer and three Assistant Preventive Officers. You should recommend any additional steps which you consider desirable.

2. (a) State briefly the conditions under which consumable stores owned by officers and members of crews, and declared on List 142, may be delivered on payment of duty, and what, in your opinion, is the object of the limitations imposed. Do you consider the Regulations reasonable and necessary? If not, what modifications would you suggest?

(b) Outline the existing Regulations relating to the declaration of non-consumable dutiable private effects of members of ships' crews, such as Musical Instruments and Watches. State whether, in your opinion, they adequately protect the Revenue against fraud, and suggest what amendment you consider advisable and practicable, giving reasons.

3. Your District includes a stretch of coast line 60 miles long covered by five Coast Preventive Stations. There is also in it a small port, staffed by a Preventive Officer and two Assistant Preventive Officers.

How would you deal with the following emergencies in the absence of the Waterguard Superintendent?

(i) The arrival in the bay of a seaside resort, about 3 miles outside the Waterguard zone, of three battleships and several smaller ships of H.M. Fleet for a three-days' stay, during which visitors will be allowed on board the warships and shore leave will be freely granted; and

(ii) The stranding of a vessel from foreign timber laden, on an isolated part of the coast within the limits of one of the Coast Preventive Stations. The Master and crew remain on the vessel. The whole of the deck cargo, and part of the remainder, is discharged on the beach at each low tide, and, after three days' working, the vessel is refloated, and proceeds to her destination in the United Kingdom. The unshipped cargo is later removed by land.

4. (a) What is the legal authority for the following Customs processes?

(i) The boarding of vessels on arrival in the United Kingdom.

(ii) The sealing up of goods and stores on board ship.

(iii) The rummaging of vessels.

(iv) The searching of persons suspected of Customs offences.

(v) The searching of premises for uncustomed goods.

(vi) The fining and forfeiture of ships concerned in smuggling.

(vii) The shipment of duty-free stores on foreign-going ships.

(b) What is a Writ of Assistance, and in what circumstances, and when, may it be used? What other instrument of search can be obtained?

5. Review the existing rules governing the acceptance of deposit in lieu of Court proceedings in seizure cases, and state (i) whether in your view any amendment as regards the powers of Chief Preventive Officers is desirable, and if so (ii) what amendments would you propose, giving reasons. Would you advocate any difference of treatment between passengers of the following descriptions detected in the non-production of dutiable goods?

(a) Colonial and foreign residents visiting the United Kingdom for a holiday of, say, three months or so.

(b) British subjects returning home to this country on leave.

(c) British subjects returning home from a holiday abroad.

What would you regard as satisfying the requirement of "a permanent address in this country" in cases (a) and (b)?

## The Prophylactic.

By "Y."

Whatever his strong points, Jonathan Garlick had one self-announcing weakness—a predilection for onions. From his earliest childhood he had indulged his fancy for this succulent vegetable; so much so that it could almost be said of him that he was born with an onion in his mouth.

Now, whatever may be said of the merits of onion-eating, the fact remains that it is impossible to keep it a secret. Jonathan was redolent of onions. Anyone within proximity of him was nasally aware of his presence.

In the department where Jonathan worked this appetite for onions gave rise to much banter and cynicism, with a decided bias towards the latter. There were some of his colleagues who habitually put their fingers to their noses every time Jonathan approached, while many were the epithets thrown at him, and numerous the threats made if he did not curb his perverted appetite. In a way this could hardly be wondered at. An official life spent in an atmosphere laden with such an aroma was not conducive to idealism.

However, despite the fact that he was looked upon as a pariah, Jonathan refused to break from his ways. He ate them in all forms, cooked and uncooked; and when he exhausted the not inconsiderable quantity he raised on his own onion patch, he resorted to other produce, both home and exotic.

This state of affairs endured for a considerable time, with Jonathan's colleagues becoming inured to the perpetual smell of onions; acclimatised, as it were. But a certain thing happened which created a metamorphosis. Jonathan commenced a diet of fried onions for lunch. Every day in his meal hour he could be found in the lunch room busy with frying-pan and onions, strictly à la Mrs. Beeton. When he first commenced operations, Jonathan was threatened with all the terrors of Medieval torture if he did not desist. But Jonathan went his oniony way unperturbed. Gradually there were whisperings that the smell was not so bad after all, whilst some went so far as to say it was rather savoury.

One day a renegade among Jonathan's detractors brought onions to fry; and his example was soon followed, until eventually all the habitués of the lunch room were fried onion enthusiasts. Things went swimmingly save for one occasion when there was an upshot in the frying-pan due to Spanish onions being put in with the Riffian variety, these two nations then being at war.

Now, everybody knows that the odour of sizzling onions is rivalled in penetratory powers only by the first-class draughts for which public offices are noted. So each day at lunch time there penetrated to the fastnesses of the higher officials an effluvium reminiscent of a Soho kitchen. The higher officials thought it rather appetising, so that when they retired to the luncheon club at the aristocratic hour of 2 p.m., there were many calls for sausages AND—the AND signifying fried onions, this designation being considered in better taste than the rather plebeian "hot dogs and onions."

This state of affairs might have gone on unnoticed had not the Head of the Department received a memorandum from H.Q. requesting him to give reasons (if any), why the Sick Return of his staff showed a steady decrease. His reply savoured of the pungency of the onions, "An onion a day keeps NOBODY away."

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## Obituary.

MR. C. E. EGAN.

It is with very profound sorrow that we have to record the death, on Wednesday, October 8th, of Mr. C. E. Egan, late Chief Preventive Officer in London. He had been confined to the house for about five weeks, and was anticipating a stay at Southport in the near future.

Mr. Egan entered the Service in 1889, and served in various ports in England and Scotland. His last position, that of Chief Preventive Officer, he held until his retirement nearly two years ago. It was during these last years that he encouraged the project of a sports club within the Preventive Staff with such good effect that the London South Side Sports Club was successfully launched several years back, to be followed shortly afterwards by the North Side Club, both of which Clubs have now blossomed into what is now the Preventive Service Sports Club. It can certainly be said that Mr. Egan was the father of organised sport among the Preventive Staff in London, and his influence will be felt for very many years. It may be mentioned that he was the prime mover in the gift of the silver challenge cup given by the Chief Preventive Officers' Association for the tug-of-war event at the annual meeting of the C. & E. Sports Club, and he also gave a silver cup to the Chess Club. Since his retirement he has taken a real and keen interest in the London Sports clubs, and his was a familiar figure at the various sporting events during the year, and at the dances held during the winter. His presence will be sadly missed this coming winter, and he will be deeply mourned by members of the London club.

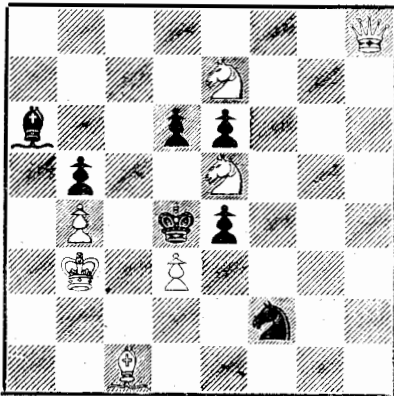
The funeral took place at Liverpool on Tuesday last, where the Preventive Service Sports Club was duly represented.

# SPORT AND SOCIAL

## Customs Preventive Staff Chess Club.

**PROBLEM No. 63** by B. G. LAWS, London.

Black.



White.

White mate in two.

### Solution to No. 62.

1. K-B5 if K×Kt if 1 P-Kt5.
2. B-Q1+ K-Kt6. 2. K×P and mates next move.
3. B-Kt4, etc.

### THE PROGRAMME.

We are now once again in the throes of the chequered board. Our stalwarts are engaged in a match of sixteen-a-side with the British correspondence Chess Association. The team is

Messrs. Bishop, Dudley, Robbins, Lovell, Prior, Pescod, Steel, and Welsford (of London), Boodle, Deans and Tuck (of Dover), Hughes (of Holyhead), Mathews (of Swansea), Mayne (of Liverpool), Sandford (of Newport), and Reilly (of Bo'ness).

In addition to the correspondence matches, there are engagements in the Civil Service League, Section 4. The club is, perhaps, a little optimistic in not commencing in the lowest section, but we anticipate a successful season. The fixtures will all be in London, and the teams will be drawn from twenty London members.

Mr. Bishop was chosen to play for Lewisham against Battersea in the London Chess League, A Section, on October 8th. He lost his game after over forty moves, no advantage being gained on either side until the twenty-fifth move.

## Preventive Service Sports Club.

### FIRST ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE.

An important event in connection with the newly-constituted Preventive Service Sports Club takes place on **Wednesday, October 29th**, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London, in the shape of a **Dinner and Dance**. This is the first function of this kind since the present club's inception early this year, when the fusion of the two London clubs was effected with a broader outlook, and it is intended that it shall be repeated annually. This year's dinner is looked upon as a particularly important occasion.

Tickets are in circulation, and can be obtained from Mr. W. J. Ferguson, Waterguard Office, Millwall Docks, London. It is important that Mr. Ferguson should know by October 25th the names of those who intend to be present, with particulars of seating desired for parties. The tickets are 7/6 each.

## Preventive Staff Sports.

### SWIMMING SECTION.

The C. and E. Gala is over, and our relay team lost gallantly. The opposition of the Statistical Office was much too strong for the other three teams entered for this event. We live to fight another day.

We were also represented in the 30 yards Club Handicap by Mr. George Coppard, who secured second place in his heat in spite of a collision. Mr. George Browne also secured third place in the last heat after being let loose from scratch.

There was a good sprinkling of Waterguard Officers in attendance, but their "boo-ays" were of no avail. We congratulate the promoters of the Gala on a successful evening.

## Liverpool Social Club.

### WHIST DRIVE.

With the mythical summer drawing to a close, activities were once more renewed at the Gainsborough Cafe, Dale Street, on September 25th, when a good muster launched the club into its fourth season.

Among those present were Mr. Large (Collector) and Mrs. Large, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brames, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sharpe, Mr. Burkey and Mr. Keiran.

The evening was a very enjoyable one for all present, and despite a rather late start there was ample time in which to complete the full number of games with an interval for refreshments.

Prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. Sharpe, and prominent successes were those of Mrs. Large and Mr. Brames. Mr. Hyland and other Committee members of the social club are to be congratulated on the excellence of the arrangements, and it is to be hoped that at the meeting called for October 21st the club will be established on a more permanent basis.

## Staff Dinner at Barry Dock.

A Staff dinner and social was held by the Waterguard Staff at the Marine Hotel, Barry, on Wednesday evening, October 8th. Mr. Cornish presided in the unavoidable absence of the Superintendent, Mr. Moss.

A good many colleagues from Cardiff and Penarth attended with their friends. The dinner was ex-

cellently served and greatly enjoyed by all. After the loyal toast a touching tribute was paid to the victims of the recent air disaster by all standing for a moment in silence.

The concert that followed was greatly appreciated, all the artistes giving of their best. The evening terminated with short speeches from Mr. Cornish and representatives from Cardiff and Penarth.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and every congratulation must be extended to Mr. Nicol, of Barry, who organised the arrangements.

## Presentation at Methil.

### MR. CHARLES BROWN.

The Customs and Excise Staff met at the Custom House, Methil, on Thursday, October 2nd, to pay their adieus to Mr. Charles Brown, Preventive Officer, on his retirement after 36½ years in the Department.

Mr. H. C. Creighton (Waterguard Superintendent) presided, and in opening the proceedings said that he had served with Mr. Brown as a colleague for some years at Aberdeen, and had been struck by his excellent, upright, honourable and conscientious qualities. It gave him great pleasure to be one of those who had the opportunity, in saying goodbye, of expressing his appreciation of those qualities. Messrs. Addison, C. B. Smith, E. V. Owen, G. Varney, W. C. Precious, F. Purnell, B. A. Groat, J. L. Rollo, W. Foster, Findlay, and McKenzie bore testimony to a genial colleague.

Mr. W. J. G. Harvey (C.P.O.), in making the presentation of an oak timepiece, paid sterling tribute to the good service of Mr. Brown. He said that he was a man of the highest integrity and of a sterling character, a good servant to the Crown.

Mr. Brown, speaking in reply, detailed many changes of the staff whilst serving at Methil, and referred to the friends "come and gone," thanking with much feeling those who had made the presentation possible. He would cherish all the good things that had been said, and the timepiece would bring back memories of many friendships made during his service.

A letter of appreciation was received from Mr. J. W. Crook (Collector, Dundee).